AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-15. (canceled)

16.   (Previously Presented) A method, including steps of

at a first node in a network, distributing digital content to a second node in that network, that digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key those steps of distributing to a second node including steps of

(a) receiving a first decryption key, that first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, that second encryption key being pre-assigned to that first node;

(b) decrypting that first decryption key using a second decryption key associated with that second encryption key, that second decryption key being preassigned to that first node;

(c) decrypting that digital content using that first decryption key;

(d) re-encrypting at least a portion of that digital content using a re-encryption key.

17.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

by a user of that digital content, receiving a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key.

18. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

receiving at least one of (a) that re-encryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key, at a server having access to that first decryption key.

19. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

receiving that re-encryption key from a server having access to that first decryption key.

20. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a public-key cryptosystem.

21. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a symmetric-key cryptosystem.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as in claim 16, wherein

    that second node includes one or more of:

    ~~a node in that network capable of performing those steps of distributing that~~ ~~digital content,~~

    a recipient user,

    a presentation device.

23. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein that re-encryption key is responsive to information from that first node.

24. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, including steps of renewing or revoking a license associated with that media stream.

25. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein

    at least one of: (a) that first decryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key

    is associated with a set of restrictions on a license to that digital content.

26. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 25, wherein

    those licensing restrictions include at least one of:

    a first date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

    a last date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

    a limited number of presentations allowed for that media stream;

a limited physical region at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

a charge, cost, fee, or subscription associated with allowing presentation of that media stream;

a type of presentation device;

an output format for a presentation device;

a set of specific presentation devices;

a bit rate, sampling rate, or other measure of granularity or precision for a presentation device.

27. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein

a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key is pre-assigned to at least one of:

that second node,

a user of that digital content,

a presentation device associated with a user of that digital content.

28. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein steps of distributing digital content to

at least one of: (a) that first node, (b) that second node, (c) a user node include reading at least a portion of that digital content from physical media.

29. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, wherein

that digital content includes at least one of:

metadata about that media stream;

some information capable of inspection by a user other than for presentation of that media stream.

30. (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, including steps of

delivering, to a user of that digital content, that digital content in a form being locked against inspection or tampering by that user;

separately delivering, to that user, a license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content, that content key being locked against inspection or tampering by devices other than a selected presentation device owned by that user; wherein the selected presentation device is associated with a presentation device key, a secure portion of the presentation device being capable of unlocking that license using that presentation device key;

with the effect that presentation of that digital content is restricted to that selected presentation device.

31.   (Previously Presented) A method as in claim 16, including steps of, at a license server

receiving an indication of distribution of that digital content;

initiating delivery of that first decryption key to that first node;

separately initiating delivery of a license for that digital content, that license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content;

wherein that license is delivered in time to at least one of (a) a user of that digital content,

(b) a device for presenting that digital content, or (c) a node in that network.

32. (Currently Amended) Apparatus including

~~a physical medium maintaining~~ digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key;

~~a physical medium maintaining~~ a first decryption key, that first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, that second encryption key being pre-assigned to that apparatus;

a key decryption element ~~coupled to~~ associated with that first decryption key, that key decrypting element having access to a second decryption key associated with that second encryption key, that second decryption key being pre-assigned to that apparatus;

a content decryption element ~~coupled to~~ for decrypting that digital content ~~and~~ with reference to that first decryption key;

a content re-encryption element ~~coupled to~~ for re-encrypting at least a portion of that digital content ~~and~~ with reference to a re-encryption key.

33. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an output port ~~coupleable~~ coupled to a network;

a sending element coupled to that output port and ~~being~~ disposed to send~~, to an intended user of that digital content,~~ information ~~from which that intended user can~~ concerning use ~~[of]~~ a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key.

34. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an output port ~~coupleable~~ coupled to a network;

a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) a physical medium maintaining a message directed to a server associated with that digital content or with rights to that digital content, and (c) information from which that intended server can grant access to a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key.

35. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an input port ~~coupleable~~ coupled to a network;

a receiving element coupled to that input port and being disposed to receive that re-encryption key from a device having access to that first decryption key.

36. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a public-key cryptosystem.

37. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

at least one pair of: that first encryption key and that first decryption key, that second encryption key and that second decryption key, that re-encryption key and a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key,

include associated keys in a symmetric-key cryptosystem.

38. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

      an output port ~~coupleable~~ coupled to a network;

      a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) that content re-encryption element, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a message directed to one or more of a node in that network capable of distributing that digital content, a recipient user, a presentation device.

39. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein that re-encryption key is responsive to information from that apparatus.

40. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

      at least one of: (a) that first decryption key, (b) a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key

      is associated with a set of restrictions on a license to that digital content.

41. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 40, wherein

      those licensing restrictions include at least one of:

      a first date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

      a last date or time at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

      a limited number of presentations allowed for that media stream;

      a limited physical region at which presentation is allowed for that media stream;

      a charge, cost, fee, or subscription associated with allowing presentation of that

media stream;

a type of presentation device;

an output format for a presentation device;

a set of specific presentation devices;

a bit rate, sampling rate, or other measure of granularity or precision for a presentation device.

42. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

a decryption key associated with that re-encryption key is pre-assigned to at least one of:

that second node,

a user of that digital content,

a presentation device associated with a user of that digital content.

43. (Canceled.)

44. (Previously Presented) Apparatus as in claim 32, wherein

that digital content includes at least one of:

metadata about that media stream;

some information capable of inspection by a user other than for presentation of that media stream.

45. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an output port ~~coupleable~~ <u>coupled</u> to a network to which a user of that digital

content is coupled;

a software element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) that content re-encryption

element, and (c) a physical medium maintaining a message to that user; wherein

that user is capable of separately retrieving from a device coupled to that network, a

license including information granting access to a decryption key associated with that re-

encryption key;

that license is associated with a selected presentation device owned by that user;

the selected presentation device is associated with a presentation device key, a

secure portion of the presentation device being capable of unlocking that license using

that presentation device key;

with the effect that presentation of that digital content is restricted to that selected

presentation device.

46. (Currently Amended) Apparatus as in claim 32, including

an input port ~~coupleable~~ <u>coupled</u> to a network;

a receiving element coupled to that input port, being disposed to receive an

indication of distribution of that digital content, and being disposed to receive that first

decryption key;

an output port ~~coupleable~~ <u>coupled</u> to that network;

a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) a physical medium

maintaining a first message, that first message including information sufficient to access

that decryption key associated with that re-encryption key, and (c) a physical medium

maintaining a second message, that second message including information sufficient to access a license for that digital content, that license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content;

wherein that license is delivered in time to at least one of: a user of that digital content, a device for presenting that digital content, or a node in that network.

47. (Currently Amended) Apparatus including

an input port ~~coupleable~~ coupled to a network;

a receiving element coupled to that input port, being disposed to receive an indication of distribution of digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted;

an output port ~~coupleable~~ coupled to that network;

a sending element coupled to (a) that output port, (b) a physical medium maintaining a message including information sufficient to decrypt that digital content, (c) a physical medium maintaining a message including information sufficient to re-encrypt that digital content, and (d) a physical medium maintaining a separate message including information sufficient to access a license for that digital content, that license including a content key capable of unlocking that digital content;

wherein that license is delivered in time to at least one of: a user of that digital content, a device for presenting that digital content, or a node in that network.

48. (Currently Amended) A ~~physical medium maintaining instructions interpretable by a computing device at a first node in a network, those instructions being disposed to direct~~

~~that computing device to distribute~~ <u>computer-readable medium having computer-executable instructions for performing a method of distributing</u> digital content <u>from a first node in a network</u> to a second node in that network, that digital content representing at least a portion of a media stream, at least a portion of that digital content being encrypted by a first encryption key[~~;~~]<u>, comprising:</u>

~~those instructions to distribute including instructions disposed to direct that computing device to~~

~~(a) receive~~ <u>receiving</u> a first decryption key, that first decryption key being encrypted by a second encryption key, that second encryption key being pre-assigned to that first node;

~~(b) decrypt that~~ <u>decrypting said</u> first decryption key using a second decryption key associated with that second encryption key, that second decryption key being pre-assigned to that first node;

~~(c) decrypt that~~ <u>decrypting said</u> digital content using that first decryption key;

~~(d) re-encrypt~~ <u>re-encrypting</u> at least a portion of that digital content using a re-encryption key.